

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Siani, Vice-Chairperson Furey led the meeting.

**2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Herring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Habel, Herring, Rudolph,  
Sargent, and Vice-Chairperson Furey.

Absent: Commissioner Bajaj and Chairperson Siani.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Associate Engineer Sedadi,  
Assistant Engineer Thiem, Sanitation Services Manager Knapp,  
and Torrance Police Sergeant Koenig.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to grant excused absences to Commissioner Bajaj and Chairperson Siani for the May 5, 2014 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Sargent moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Herring moved to approve Traffic Commission meeting minutes as submitted for February 3, 2014, March 3, 2014, and April 7, 2014. Commissioner Habel seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Bajaj and Chairperson Siani).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

Greg Diete, Paseo de la Playa, distributed a map and described left turns into Best Buy on Pacific Coast Highway. He stated that controlled left turn signs are not

visible to drivers due to six lanes of traffic, median, and large vehicles. He suggested extending the left turn lane at Madison Avenue to accommodate drivers wanting to turn left.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that he would forward the concern to the State for consideration.

Commissioner Herring agreed that uninformed drivers could get caught up in the left turn lane before seeing the signage.

Larry Fisher, Briarwood Drive, inquired about the status of Hawthorne Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway.

Engineering Manager Semaan advised him that City Council and the City Attorney's Office are currently exploring right-of-way components of the project and inquiries should be directed to the Department or the City Attorney's Office.

Sanitation Services Manager Knapp provided information regarding the Optimized Street Sweeping Program. He stated that the program includes updating existing signs, installation of new signs, and implementing alternate side street sweeping. He distributed a mailer recently sent to 29,500 residences informing them about the program. He explained that the new system is part of the City's effort to comply with State regulations to eliminate debris from entering the storm drain system. He noted that the City and surrounding cities received \$1,745,000 in grant funding to install trash screens in 6,200 catch basins and to implement an effective street sweeping program, adding that Torrance is receiving the majority of the funds. He noted that currently less than 15% of the City has street sweeping signs and that under the new program there would be more than 10,000 12" x 18" signs.

He stated that currently 200 tons of debris is picked up from street sweeping per month and estimated that an extra 60 tons would be picked up with the new program. He noted that an alternate day system is the standard in surrounding cities and allows half of the neighborhood to be used for parking. He stated that City Council has approved implementation of Phase 1 that involves placing stickers on existing signage. He noted that the biggest objection to the program has been aesthetic concerns and that many residents prefer a minimal number of signs installed with maximum spacing. He stated that they would use existing signs posts, street light poles, and installation on property lines wherever possible. He informed them that the second public meeting is on May 20 and that City Council would give direction regarding implementation dates and make any changes to the program. He stated that total implementation in the City is expected by the end of 2015.

In response to Commissioner Rudolph's inquiry, staff explained that the item did not come to the Commission before now because it came in as a mandate from the State and was time sensitive due to the grant opportunity.

Commissioner Sargent questioned how streets would be swept when there is no parking allowed on one side and Manager Knapp acknowledged that, if a street is very narrow, people would not be able to park on the street for three hours a week. He explained that they are unable to make different rules for different streets and still be in compliance.

Commissioner Herring expressed concern that one size does not fill all in Torrance and raised the issue of homeowners who work at night and sleep in the day.

Responding to Commissioner Habel's inquiry, Manager Knapp stated that the grant funds would cover costs of signage and catch basin inserts.

Commissioner Rudolph raised the possibility of monthly street sweeping and Manager Knapp pointed out that most residents are in favor of weekly street sweeping.

## **7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

### **7a. CONSIDERATION OF NEW SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT TERMINAL ACCESS ROUTE**

Assistant Engineer Thiem presented background on the item and requested that the Commission concur with staff recommendation by denying the request to consider the designation of 190<sup>th</sup> Street a Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Route. He called attention to the Caltrans truck size chart in Attachment A as well as a map of truck and STAA routes in the City in Attachment B. He noted that current STAA routes are on the State highways—Hawthorne Boulevard, Pacific Coast Highway, and Western Avenue.

He reported that on March 24, 2014 the City received a request from Rail Delivery Services (Attachment C) to designate 190<sup>th</sup> Street an STAA route from the I-110 Freeway westerly to a business located at 4240-A West 190<sup>th</sup> Street. He noted that the City has 90 days to respond; otherwise, the request is automatically approved. He stated that, in order to properly evaluate the request, additional information needs to be provided by the business owner as outlined in the material of record. He stated that, with the Commission's concurrence, staff would send a letter to Rail Delivery Services informing them of the requirement for needed elements.

In response to Vice-Chairperson Furey's request, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that STAA trucks exceed the California maximum length of 65 feet, due to the sleeping cabin on the cab. He added that the kingpin to rear axle distance and longer wheel span requires a larger radius of turn.

Responding to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, he explained that currently STAA trucks go to a distribution center, offload their trailers, change trucks, and continue on to their destination in the City.

Commissioner Herring received confirmation from staff that Rail Delivery Services was notified about this meeting.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that he would like to hear from the business and received clarification from Sergeant Koenig that truck drivers cannot park and sleep on any public street in the City, only on private property.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rudolph moved to concur with staff by denying the request to consider the designation of 190<sup>th</sup> Street from the east City limits to 4240-A West 190<sup>th</sup> Street a Surface Transportation Assistance Act Route. Commissioner

Herring seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Bajaj and Chairperson Siani).

**7b. TRAFFIC COMMISSION 2014 WORK PLAN – THIRD PRIORITY: SIGNAL MODIFICATION RIGHT TURN OVERLAP ARROWS**

Associate Engineer Sedadi provided background and requested input from Commissioners regarding their concerns, objectives, and vision in order to draft a policy for this Work Plan item.

In response to Commissioner Rudolph's request, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that signals with Right Turn Overlap Phasing (RTOA) can increase the number of right turning vehicles at an intersection each cycle and subsequently enhance the Level of Service of the intersection. He stated that a dedicated right turn lane is required in order to implement RTOA.

Using westbound Lomita Boulevard to northbound Hawthorne Boulevard as an example, he stated that RTOA would be beneficial but cannot be implemented due to conflicting movement by opposing U-turns. He noted that an alternate option would be to install a second right turn lane if there is sufficient right-of-way and physical space.

Following a brief discussion, Commissioners indicated that their objective in selecting this Work Plan item is to increase traffic flow in the City as fast and as efficiently as possible.

Vice-Chairperson Furey asked staff to provide a list of intersections where there are dedicated right turn lanes, opposing U-turns, temporary U-turn restrictions, and current capital projects already in planning.

Commissioner Rudolph stated that the Commission has an obligation to residents to look at every possible way to increase traffic flow in the City.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that intersections that are in need of right turn lanes have already been identified in the City-wide analysis that was conducted a few years ago. He offered to bring back possible parameters for RTOA to the June 2, 2014 Commission meeting.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**8a.** Commissioner Herring relayed a resident's concern regarding a restaurant's overflow making it difficult to park.

Engineering Manager Semaan explained that anyone is allowed to park on a public street and that the four permit parking areas in the City were only implemented because of significant conflict.

**8b.** Commissioner Habel offered his observation that the lane lines need to be repainted in several areas that include Del Amo Circle at Sepulveda Boulevard.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that lane lines are painted on a cycle and would ask Operations to check.

**8c.** Vice-Chairperson Furey stated that there is a blind turn coming out of Bailey Drive onto 182<sup>nd</sup> Street and questioned why there is red curbing on three corners and not the fourth.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the residence has no on street parking on Bailey Drive but has received verbal confirmation from the property owner that he has no objection to the corner being painted red.

**8d.** In response to Vice-Chairperson Furey's inquiry about ongoing repairs in his neighborhood, Engineering Manager Semaan advised him that Maricopa Street is not being widened and replacing the curb is strictly a maintenance project.

**8e.** Commissioner Habel requested an excused absence for the June 2, 2014 Traffic Commission meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Sargent moved to adjourn the meeting to June 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Rudolph seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as amended November 3, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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